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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY USSR

DATE DISTR. 27 Apr 1949

SUBJECT Port of Odessa

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REPORT NO. 50X1-HUM

DATE OF

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3. Two USSR steamships, Russia and Okrina, were being repaired. The bridge deck of Okrina appeared badly burned. Other vessels noted were:

- (a) a large passenger liner, formerly German,
- (b) a 20,000 GT whaler
- (c) several small destroyers, all old and rusty,
- (d) several small coastal freighters loading coal and wheat.

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4. One ship was loading wheat and two others coal. A USSR merchant vessel was discharging manila hemp saw no other freight loading or discharging at Odessa.

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5. The docks were all in a bad state of repair. ~~There were no~~ other pier facilities. One building, which appeared to be a large storage warehouse, was being renovated by German prison labor. Conditions within the city of Odessa were very poor. Women did practically all the labor. There was very little to buy in the stores and the prices were very high. The official monetary rate of exchange was five (5) USSR rubles for a US dollar. The blackmarket rate of exchange was nine (9) USSR rubles for a US dollar. Only three automobiles were noted in port. Many USSR soldiers and sailors and other military personnel were seen at all times in Odessa. The military personnel seemed to be much better fed and clothed than the civilians. All were well dressed in uniform, and were in good condition physically.

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